

STATE NEWS.

THREE SMUGGLERS DROWNED OFF THE COAST OF NORTH CAROLINA.—The Inspector of Customs at Masonboro Sound, on the coast of North Carolina, wrote to the Collector of the port of Wilmington on the 30th ult., giving an account of the death of three men. On the afternoon of the 25th ult. he observed two vessels at anchor about three miles out from shore. While watching them, he saw a small boat put off from them and make for the shore. He immediately gave chase, and when within less than a mile from the shore he came near enough to communicate with the men in the boat. He found that the boat contained three men and two large boxes. He hailed them and inquired what they were taking ashore, and was ordered by the men to return from whence he came, and not to meddle with them, which he refused to do. Upon this the men became very angry and fired at him. The Inspector returned the fire, but neither discharge did any damage. He soon overtook the boat and tried to run alongside, when the men assailed him with oars and struck him knocking him down into his boat. One of the men then attempted to jump into the Inspector's boat, but a heavy sea striking their boat at the instant the man made the spring, the boat was upset, and men, boat and boxes instantly sank. The Inspector stated that he was unable to render any assistance, having been disabled by the blow he had received. It was subsequently ascertained that the boat was engaged in smuggling cigars.

WASHINGTON LETTER.—The following figures show to some extent the amount of cotton passing into market from certain sections back of us, this statement showing the shipments from points on the Wilmington road between here and Goldsboro' which has passed here within the last two days:

For New York, 85 bales.
For Baltimore, 57 bales.
For Norfolk, 38 bales.
For Petersburg, 35 bales.

The amount passing over the Raleigh road, from points between Raleigh and this place, is very good, but we were unable to procure the figures. *Weldon News.*

WAY FRIED.—We were gratified to learn, in a conversation with Hon. Josiah Turner, President of the North Carolina Railroad, that a tariff of way freights has been established on his road, which will soon be made public, reducing the freight to a very low figure on all articles raised or grown in the State and designed for our home consumption. The object of this tariff is to encourage people to grow poultry, vegetables, etc., and to manufacture butter, cheese, etc., for home consumption. This will give an impetus, we hope, to the culture of fruits, cabbage, Irish potatoes, butter, cheese, etc., and prevent the necessity of procuring such articles from the North. *Raleigh Sentinel.*

A SNOW THE FIRST OF THE SEASON.—Coming over the Petersburg road Thursday morning we were no little astonished to see the falling flakes suddenly transformed into huge flakes of snow, and for some hours the view for continued to fall in this manner. The snow was transformed into a sheet of "white snow." The snow-storm, however, did not extend to this place, assuming here the appearance of hail. This is the first snow of the season anywhere in this section of the country, and serves as a hint to our people to get ready for the late season that has just departed. *Weldon News.*

A PROCLAMATION BY HIS EXCELLENCY, JONATHAN WORTH, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA.—Whereas, By Act of Assembly, "the Governor is directed to set apart a day in every year, and by Proclamation give notice thereof, as a day of solemn and public thanksgiving to Almighty God, for past blessings, and of supplication for his continued kindness over us, as a State and as a Nation";

Now, therefore, I, JONATHAN WORTH, GOVERNOR, as aforesaid, do issue this my Proclamation, appointing and setting apart THURSDAY, the Twenty-ninth day of NOVEMBER, instant, as such day, and do most earnestly recommend that it be observed accordingly by all the good people of the State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, His Excellency, JONATHAN WORTH, Governor of North Carolina, has hereunto set his hand, and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed.

Done at the City of Raleigh, this the Fourth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, and in the Ninety-Second year of American Independence.

JONATHAN WORTH.

By the Governor: W. B. RUSSELL, Private Secretary.

THE U. S. MINT AT CHARLOTTE.—Dr. I. W. Jones, who has been appointed to take charge of the U. S. Mint at this place, will open it on early day as an Assay Office, and is now making the necessary repairs. We learn that the establishment as a Mint has not been abolished by any Congressional Act, but the matter was left discretionary to the Secretary of the Treasury, who has directed that it be opened for the present only as an Assay Office. Whether it is ever again operated for the purpose of coining will depend on the success of the mining interests in this section. *Char. Democrat.*

ELECTED.—We learn that at a meeting of the stockholders on the 30th ult., Mr. W. H. Willard was elected President of the Louisville Mining and Manufacturing Company. *Ral. Sentinel.*

DISFRAUGHTED.—There is living in this city a venerable and excellent citizen, one of whose ancestors was for more than twenty years disfranchised, and denied all political privileges, by the Puritans of Massachusetts, for a bold, honest and zealous opposition to the proslavery persecution of the Quakers. The gentleman in question is himself now disfranchised for standing by the rights of his people, by the modern Puritans. He has reason to be proud of the record of his ancestor, and no cause to be ashamed of his own! *Ral. Sentinel.*

PARDONED.—Governor Worth issued on yesterday a warrant of pardon for Emma Johnston, late slave of Jas. C. Johnston, dead, convicted of the crime of murder, and sentenced to be hanged at Halifax, the 29th inst. The extenuating circumstances of this case, the extreme ignorance of the person, and the doubt upon the mind of the Judge and jury, impelled them to urge upon Gov. Worth executive clemency, and he yields to their convictions and grants a pardon. *Ral. Sentinel.*

Correspondence of the Petersburg Index.

Defence of McGowan's Brigade—A Letter from the General.

ABBEVILLE, C. H., S. C., Oct. 14, 1867.
H. E. Young, Esq., My Dear Friend.—The slip you had the kindness to send me from the Petersburg Index, has just been received, in the midst of my professional engagements on the Circuit, and I have not the time to give it the full refutation which it deserves. The matter as to the manner of the statements about Wilcox's Division, and especially about the Brigades of McGowan and Lane, surprise me beyond measure. The writer speaks as positively as if he knew what he was saying, and as recklessly as if reputation had no value. I do not know who he is, and therefore am not sure that it is expedient now to reply to his inconsiderate remarks. Still, as General Wilcox's report of the operations of his division, in the campaign of 1864, was destroyed on the retreat from the Petersburg line, and the statements made by me repeated until the ignorant accept them as the truth of history, I have determined to put you in possession of some of the facts concerning that campaign. If the official reports were published, there would be no necessity to say one word, as they, coming from those who had the best opportunity for knowing the facts, will clearly show what services were performed by my Brigade.

First. As to the battle of the Wilderness, it is untrue that Wilcox's Division was only slightly engaged on the first evening—the afternoon of May 5th. It was very heavily engaged. My Brigade was the first thrown forward early in the afternoon, to support Gen. Heth, who was gallantly engaged. He pressed forward, and not now state what was done better than was stated in the official report made by me to Gen. Wilcox at the time, a copy of which I send you. I regret that Gen. A. P. Hill is dead, but the other Generals on the ground, Gen. Heth and Wilcox—can testify to its entire truth.

EXTRACT FROM MCGOWAN'S REPORT.
"As I approached the point of fire, I met Gen. Lee, who directed me to proceed down the plank road and report to Gen. Heth who was conducting the fight. I did so, and was directed by him to deploy my Brigade on both sides of the plank road, and if possible to drive the enemy down towards the front. I pressed forward through the dense undergrowth, and passing over the line of Gen. Heth, which was lying down, charged the enemy and drove him some distance, four or five hundred yards, the whole extent of our front."

Col. Brown was in command of the brigade at that time and I have written to him on the subject of the report, is, of course, not yet received, but in the meantime I close the statement of Capt. L. C. Haskell, Assistant Adjutant General of the brigade, and who was present on the occasion.

CALDWELL, IN HIS HISTORY OF THE BRIGADE, which is very reliable, states that the information of our Generals as to the force and character of the enemy across the river was correct. It seems strange that a voice should have been given to the "centre point" of those vast lines of circumvallation, disparaging the just fame of men, who fought gallantly on every great battle field of the war. The position of the brigade was not yet received, but in the meantime I close the statement of Capt. L. C. Haskell, Assistant Adjutant General of the brigade, and who was present on the occasion.

DEAR SIR: Having been asked by you to say what I recollect of the affair at Jericho Ford on 23d May, 1864, in which our brigade was engaged, I send the following, which I believe to be strictly correct and true. On the morning of 23d May, McGowan's brigade (Col. Brown commanding) moved from bivouac near North Ann river to the highway which runs parallel with the Central Railroad. We had gone but a short distance when we were halted and ordered to wait until the wagon trains and artillery had passed us. This detained us until after mid-day; when we resumed our march southward along the railroad and had gone about two miles when we were met by Major General W. H. F. Lee, who ordered us to halt. He said that he had crossed a small force supposed to be cavalry, at Jericho Ford and were advancing toward the railroad. He requested Colonel Brown to send forward a regiment to feel the enemy. Orr's regiment of rifles was ordered to move in the direction of the Ford. As they advanced they were met by a hundred yards slightly engaged the enemy and retired upon the brigade, having taken a prisoner. This prisoner was a Union soldier. Col. Brown now determined to move on in obedience to our original orders to rejoin our division. We had not, however, gone more than a mile and a half when we were met by Lt. Gen. A. P. Hill, who halted the brigade, formed it in line facing north, and sent out skirmishers to discover the position of the enemy. Remaining in this position for something more than an hour we were joined by Gen. Wilcox with three other brigades of the division, and soon after the whole division was marched back upon the railroad, and nearly at the point at which we had first left the enemy.

Our brigade was now formed in line, with two other brigades (Lane's and Thomas') of the division, facing towards Jericho Ford. Skirmishers were thrown forward to a distance of one hundred yards and the three brigades immediately commenced an advance in line. We soon crossed the Railroad, and coming into an open field, our skirmishers became engaged with those of the enemy, driving them back. By this time the two left regiments of the brigade, the 1st and 12th South Carolina Volunteers, had entered a wood which ran obliquely with our direction. The firing now became rapidly heavier, and our skirmishers retiring, the line of battle became hotly engaged, still keeping up the advance. The three right regiments of the brigade, the 3d, 4th and 5th South Carolina Volunteers, were thrown forward to a distance of one hundred yards and the three brigades immediately commenced an advance in line. 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